

HARTFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Susanne Walker Abetti, Pat Stark and chair Jonathan Schechtman.

**Staff Present:** Town Planner Matt Osborn.

**Others Present:** Planning Commission member Dennis Brown.

A remote meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission in compliance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law was held on Wednesday, June 17, 2020. Chair Jonathan Schechtman called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He proceeded to read the “Remote Public Meeting Script for Opening a Meeting as recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns.”

1. Minutes of the May 18, 2020 HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted a correction. He asked if there are any other corrections to the Minutes of May 18<sup>th</sup>. Susanne Walker Abetti noted a correction. Susanne made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 18<sup>th</sup> with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Schechtman and approved.
2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda: Jonathan Schechtman asked if there are any additions to the agenda. Matt Osborn requested adding the National Alliance of Preservation Commission Annual Conference and the Wright Tomb. The HHPC agreed.
3. Taft’s Flat Intensive Level Survey: Matt Osborn reported that he heard back from Devin Colman of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation today that a decision on the grant deadline extension request to the National Park Service had not been made, but it was expected to be granted due to COVID-19. The project scope of work included a walking tour and community meeting. Matt recommends delaying both events so they can be held in person. The HHPC agreed. Matt noted that if an extension is not granted, consultant Brian Knight is willing to conduct remote meetings.

Matt also reported that Brian Knight submitted a revised draft based on the comments from staff and the HHPC. Matt asked the HHPC to review the revised draft and get comments to Matt. Jonathan Schechtman reminded the HHPC to keep track of their time reviewing the draft.

Matt reported that he was contacted by a resident of Worcester Avenue who requested a copy of the draft report. Matt contacted Brian Knight who consented to releasing the report. Matt e-mailed the report to the resident. He suggested making the report available to the public and promote it through the Hartford Listserv, town website and a mailing to Taft’s Flat property owners. The HHPC agreed.

4. Parker House Renovation: Matt Osborn reported that he requested an update about the project from Simon Pearce Inc. Chief Executive Officer Jay Benson. Jay responded that they are continuing work on the stone walls and repairing rot under the porch and one set of bay windows. In addition, they are installing new porch skirting that replicates the old skirting. They have hired a mason who will do some repointing of the old and cracked brick in places. The window and painting project was approved by QLLA and the windows are on order. Once the stonework is complete, the beds atop retaining walls will be replanted. They are currently working with a structural engineer, the state and the town on plans for the underside of the porch. They are also trying to line up a slate roof specialist to selectively repair the roof. Jay concluded by stating that all in all, they feel good about the progress.

The HHPC were very pleased with the restoration work on the building. Jonathan Schechtman commented on how well the two properties relate to one another now as they originally did. The HHPC agreed.

5. 2020 CLG Grant (Demolition Ordinance): Matt Osborn reported that he hopes to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant for the project by the middle of July. Matt stated that would like to get feedback from the HHPC before releasing the RFP. Jonathan Schechtman responded that he would be happy to review the RFP. The HHPC agreed.
6. National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Annual Conference: Matt Osborn reported that the annual conference of the NAPC will be held remotely and is scheduled from August 3-9. The registration fee is \$100. Matt noted the current town spending freeze. He will inquire with Department of Planning and Development Services Director Lori Hirshfield if a HHPC member can register. Jonathan Schechtman requested that Matt send a link to the conference program. Matt agreed.
7. Major David Wright Tomb: Pat Stark reported that a cousin of Donna Wright who is a stone mason that specializes in historic restoration has volunteered to work on the Major David Wright Tomb on the VA Cut-off Road. Major Wright was born in 1749, came to Hartford in 1771 with his wife Hannah and died in 1822. The tomb was built in 1814 when his wife Hannah died. Four others were placed in the tomb including his son David Jr. and his wife Elizabeth and David Sr.'s son Bela and his wife Betsy.
8. Next HHPC Meeting: Jonathan Schechtman noted that the next HHPC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.
9. Adjournment: Pat Stark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Schechtman and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.